

Daycare Center and an active member of the First Christian Church in Concord. He wrote a book about his life that was published in 2010 titled *I Made the Best of It*.

Such an upstanding, dedicated local leader will be missed by his friends, family, and community. Robert is survived by his wife, four children, nineteen grandchildren, and thirteen great-grandchildren. My thoughts and prayers go out to them in this time of deep loss; I hope the memories and principles that Robert Mathis lived his life by bring them comfort. Robert will be missed by his community and his country. I am honored to be able to recognize the life of such a selfless, upstanding individual as Robert Lee Mathis today before Congress and our great nation.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE NORA CRONIN PRESENTATION ACADEMY

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and salute the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy in the City of Newburgh, New York as this Catholic school for low-income girls prepares to dedicate its permanent home on November 21, 2011.

I am delighted to add my voice to those recognizing the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy on this important and wonderful milestone. The Academy was organized in 2003 and officially founded in 2004 by the Presentation Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary to offer a high quality educational alternative to young girls in the struggling City of Newburgh, which remains one of the most economically distressed communities in the State of New York. With strong support from the local community, the Academy was established through the vision and dedicated efforts of Sisters Nora Cronin, Joan Mary Gleason, Yliana Hernández, Ann Marie McMahon, Carol Melsopp, and Helen Marie Raynor, and Associate Jackie Martinez. The Academy was renamed in honor of Sister Nora following her passing in 2004.

Under the diligent leadership of its Principal, Sister Yliana, the Academy accepted its first class of fifth grade students in 2006–2007 and has grown steadily as the first class advanced and new classes entered the school. Originally housed in temporary locations in New Windsor and at another location in the City of Newburgh, the Academy purchased and redeveloped a long-neglected historic property at 69 Bay View Terrace in the City of Newburgh. The Dedication of the Academy's new permanent home is a testament to the commitment and leadership of the Presentation Sisters as well as the generosity and hard work of the Academy's Board of Directors and many local supporters.

As a result of this inspiring effort, dozens of underprivileged young girls in the City of Newburgh will have the opportunity to receive an incredible education in a supportive and safe environment. I congratulate and offer my gratitude to all those who make the Academy and the Dedication possible, and I wish the students and faculty of the Nora Cronin Presentation Academy the very best in the coming years.

A TRIBUTE TO JIM AND MEGAN WHITE

HON. MICHAEL G. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize two outstanding Pennsylvanians, Jim and Megan White, who are being presented the Barry Award by the American Catholic Historical Society. The Barry Award is named after Commodore John Barry, the "Father of the American Navy." John Barry was a Philadelphia Irish mariner who served as a Captain in the Navy during the Revolutionary War and subsequently received 'Commission Number One' in the Navy from President George Washington on June 4th, 1794. His military service to a young nation was instrumental in establishing the legacy of a strong Navy that we still enjoy today. The Barry Award is awarded to an American who, by their character and their contributions to church, community and professional accomplishments, has distinguished themselves. By all accounts, Jim and Megan White have exceeded these expectations, serving church and community with distinction. As a Member of Congress representing Pennsylvania, I am proud to join you in honoring them.

Jim and Megan White are an example of servant leaders who are committed to serving their local community. A devoted couple, they are loving parents to five children; whom they have taught to never back down in the face of popular opinion; and to always do what their heart and soul directs them. Megan has devoted countless hours at parish food and clothing drives and is also a member of the Woman's Auxiliary of St. Edmond's Home for Children. She provides constant support for her children and husband in all their endeavors.

Jim is a member of Legatus, the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre, Knights of Malta, Pennsylvanians for Human Life, and the Catholic Philopatrian Literary Institute. He is the President of J. J. White Inc., a family business founded by his great-grandfather in 1920. His business is the largest contracting employer in the Mid-Atlantic Region.

I am privileged to recognize Jim and Megan's commitment and selfless dedication to others. The White's exemplify the values that make Pennsylvania a great place to live and raise a family. I congratulate them on this honor and commend the American Catholic Historical Society for selecting Jim and Megan White for the Barry Award.

IN RECOGNITION OF NEIL ARMSTRONG UPON RECEIVING THE CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL

HON. JEAN SCHMIDT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, in 1900, Orville and Wilbur Wright left Dayton, Ohio for Kitty Hawk, North Carolina to begin testing the first manned aircraft. Little did they know in less than 70 years, another individual from Ohio would be making aviation history yet again.

Mr. Speaker, we will gather today in the Rotunda to recognize the historic accomplishments of Neil Armstrong—along with three other extraordinary men: Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Glenn.

I, like most Americans, remember watching television in awe that July evening as Neil Armstrong took "one small step for man, one giant leap for mankind" onto the moon.

While the accomplishments of the Apollo program would not have been possible had it not been for those that came before it—including the Mercury and Gemini programs—we must recognize those pioneers, like Neil, who selflessly volunteered their lives for the pursuit of knowledge to go where no one had gone before.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues in joining me in congratulating my constituent, Neil Armstrong, as well as Buzz Aldrin, Michael Collins, and John Glenn upon receiving the Congressional Gold Medal.

HONORING TECHNICAL SERGEANT LUIGGE ROMANILLO UPON RECEIPT OF THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS WITH VALOR

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 16, 2011

Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge and honor Technical Sergeant Luigge Romanillo upon his award of the Distinguished Flying Cross with Valor.

The Distinguished Flying Cross is America's oldest military aviation award. In 1926, the 69th Congress established the Distinguished Flying Cross to honor any person serving in the Armed Forces who distinguishes him or herself "by heroism or extraordinary achievement while participating in an aerial flight."

On May 4, 2010, Sergeant Romanillo flew a high-risk Medical Evacuation mission to extract wounded coalition forces engaged by over one-hundred insurgents near Baghran Airfield in Afghanistan. The confined landing area left the cargo door nearly five feet off the ground as hostile insurgents fired from less than 200 meters away. The aircraft received small arms damage to several control surfaces as Sergeant Romanillo and his teammate stepped off the aircraft toward the patients amid the firefight.

Under a storm of enemy bullets, Sergeant Romanillo led his team in recovering the patients. Once in the aircraft, he administered life saving treatment to his patient who had suffered a gunshot wound. The actions of Sergeant Romanillo and his team led to the successful evacuation of two wounded coalition soldiers and repatriation of two killed in action.

It was my honor and privilege to recognize Sergeant Romanillo at a ceremony while I was home in my district. The outstanding heroism displayed deserves great recognition by the entire United States, the nation he has so selflessly served. Sergeant Romanillo has the respect and gratitude of all Americans.